

Style

First, let us set down, in outline form, a list of features that you can look for when analyzing prose style.

A. Kind of diction

1. general or specific
2. abstract or concrete
3. formal or informal
4. Latinate (usually polysyllabic) or Anglo-Saxon (usually monosyllabic)
5. common words or jargon
6. referential (denotative) or emotive (connotative)

B. Length of sentences (measured in number of words)

C. Kinds of sentences

1. grammatical: simple, compound, complex, compound-complex
2. rhetorical: loose, periodic, balanced, antithetical
3. functional: statement, question, command, exclamation

D. Variety of sentence patterns

1. inversions
2. sentence openers
3. method and location of expansion

E. Means of articulating sentences (coherence devices)

F. Use of figures of speech

G. Paragraphing

1. length (measured in number of words and number of sentences)
2. kind of movement or development in paragraphs
3. use of transitional devices